very early Norman arch, evidence of the early period of the erection of the building, he considered the date of the bowl to be about the middle of the twelfth century, and that it had been remounted on this base at the first rebuilding of the church, early in the century following.

I am inclined to agree in this opinion from the curious half-scroll at the upper part of the font for in late Norman examples, a perfect scroll is generally seen. A cross ✣ is cut in the upper edge of the bowl; whether this be symbolical or is merely a mason's mark, I will not venture to determine. Mr. G. Godwin, in his interesting paper "On Masons' Marks," published in the "Archæologia," places this mark as peculiar to the early English period.

The font is very irregularly worked, the leaves on it not being parallel to the upper ornamented band; it is placed on the north side of the nave, against the western column, in its original situation, and has a drain for the emission of the water after baptism. Of this font I some months ago exhibited a drawing to the Society of Antiquaries.

The church is a picturesque edifice, consisting of a nave, north aisle, and chancel (the latter modern); it appears to have been rebuilt about the commencement of the thirteenth century, and very extensively repaired about the end of the fourteenth century, when the church was robbed of its south aisle. The patron of Yatesbury is the Rev. William Money Kyrle, of Much Marcle, in Herefordshire, whose family has presented to the living ever since the early part of the fifteenth century. The church is distant from Calne about four miles east, and is in the immediate vicinity of the Druidical Temple of Avebury, and the other stupendous Celtic works which form so remarkable a feature of the Marlborough Downs.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,
C. J. Richardson.

22, Brompton-crescent.

THE WOOD PAVING IN OXFORD-STREET.

At a vestry meeting of St. Marylebone parish, held on Saturday, the 12th inst.,

Mr. Scaice, the parish surveyor, brought up a report which he had been directed to furnish by the vestry, as to the state of the 4,000 yards of wood paving laid down by the Metropolitan Company between Wells-street and Rathbone-place.

The report set forth that, pursuant to the orders of the vestry, the surveyor had minutely examined the state of the wood paving in question. The surface of the said paving was rather rough and uneven, and there were many holes in it. The workmen of the wood company had, at his request, opened the paving across the street in three places in Oxford-street. Opposite No. 51 the blocks, which are of fir, were worn from their general thickness of six inches to four and a quarter inches. The paving facing No. 50 is of elm, and was found worn generally from six inches to three inches; and opposite to 31, also of fir, it was found under the coach-stand worn from six inches to three inches. This portion of the street, although in moderate condition on the surface, is so much worn, that it was found difficult to raise a whole block. To put it into good condition, he considered the whole ought to be relaid, bottom upwards, about one-half or two-thirds of the old blocks being drawn out and new ones substituted.

At this stage of the proceedings a number of the worn blocks were produced and laid on the table for the inspection of the vestry.

Mr. Harbut said that he believed, even with that convincing proof before their eyes, there were some gentleman so wedded to wood paving that they would not believe that wood paving was a failure. (Laughter.) He moved that the report of the surveyor be adopted by the vestry, and it be forwarded to the Metropolitan Company, together with an official notice that the vestry, in accordance with the terms of their contract, required them to put the 4,000 yards of wood paving, between Wells-street and Rathbone-place, in a state of efficient repair, to the satisfaction of the parish surveyor, forthwith. What, he would ask, was the history of this splendid wood paving? The fact was, this piece of paving had, at the outset, cost the vestry the sum of 2,000 guineas, and although it had not been down four years, it had cost the vestry 210*l.* per year to keep it in repair, in all 2,710*l.*, which was at the rate of 3*s.* 6*d.* the superficial yard per annum. If the same space of Oxford-street had been paved with granite it would have cost 600 per cent. less than this wood paving; and even the macadamized road had only cost 1*s.* 11*d.* per yard, whilst this rubbish had cost 3*s.* 6*d.*

[The resolution was carried by a large majority.]

GATEWAY-TOWER OF PORTHAML, WALES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BUILDER.

Sir,—The above perspective view is of the gateway-tower of Portham, which is a very picturesque object, situated in a delightful spot about ten miles from Brecon. It was probably built in the early part of the sixteenth century, by Sir William Vaughan, first sheriff of Brecknockshire, who resided there. His descendant, Walter Vaughan, left a daughter and heiress, who, in the year 1677, married John, first Lord Ashburnham, from whom this property is inherited by the present Earl of Ashburnham.

There is not much mention of the place, as far as I have been able to ascertain, in the records of the county; but I think, if we may judge from the remains, it was formerly a place of considerable strength and magnificence. The interior of the archway is finely groined, and its ribs are supported at the angles by enriched corbels. The mouldings are all very cleanly executed in the Tudor or perpendicular style of workmanship, which is clearly shewn in the square drip to the window and the four-centered arch to the gateway.

It was doubtlessly originally much higher, as is seen by the one corner, upon which are placed some loose stones belonging to a battlement; and moulded stones from some other parts of the old building are fixed along the top of the front to form a coping, after the taste of some country restorer. There is a staircase on one side in the thickness of the wall (the door to which I have shewn in my sketch), leading to a square room above the archway, with two windows opposite each other, and afterwards ascending on the same side to the top, where there is a narrow terrace around a pyramidal tiled roof, which is surmounted by a stone ball about a foot in diameter. The attached ivy is very luxuriant, and completely covers the three sides and part of the front of the tower, mellowly blending it with the surrounding scenery, giving it the semblance of having grown old with, and forming, indeed, a portion of, the natural landscape.

At the back of the tower, at the distance of about 20 yards, is a house of much more modern date, though still maintaining, in its principal features, a good deal of the manorial character.

It has been occupied by the family of its present tenant, Evan Prosser, Esq., for more than a century. I remain, Sir,

Your very obedient servant,
J. L. T.

Berkeley-place, Brecknock.

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